

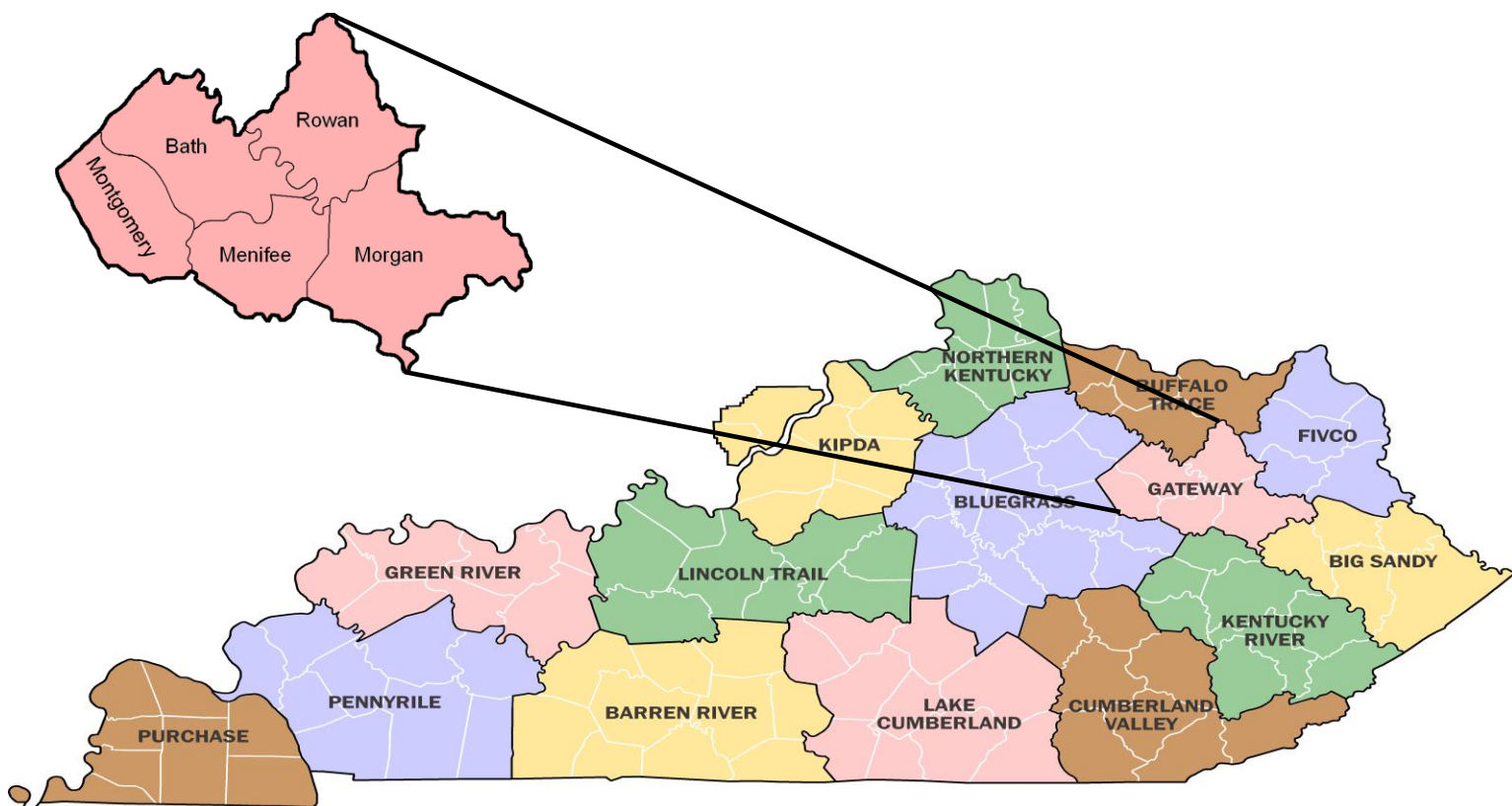
# Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative

A Survey of Commonwealth Residents

## Gateway

September 25, 2007

**\*\*PRELIMINARY REPORT\*\***



Graduate Center for Gerontology *Assistance. Advocacy. Answers on Aging.*



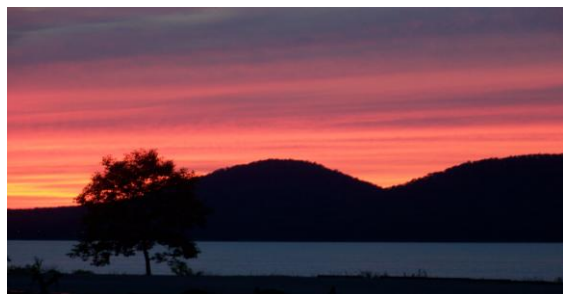
Department for Aging and Independent Living

# Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative

## Gateway Area Development District

### Gateway: The Context

The Gateway Area Development District is located in the central eastern region of Kentucky and consists of Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, and Rowan Counties. These counties embrace a portion of both the Eastern Coalfield and Outer Bluegrass regions of the state. Gateway is a popular destination for Civil War era enthusiasts and outdoor adventure seekers. Scenic Cave Run Lake, an artificial lake completed in 1973 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is situated in the Daniel Boone National Forest. A short drive from Morehead, Cave Run Lake offers swimming and hiking trails in addition to its fishing distinction as the site of the largest Muskie ever taken in Kentucky. The cities of Mt. Sterling, in Montgomery County, and Morehead, in Rowan County, are the only areas to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages in the Gateway district.



Sunset over Cave Run Lake  
Rowan County, KY

Morehead is the home of Morehead State University, boasting notable alumnus Phil Simms, quarterback for the New York Giants and MVP of Super Bowl XXI. The Kentucky Folk Art Center, dedicated to the skills of unschooled artisans, is also in Morehead. Local culture abounds during the annual Sorghum Festival in West Liberty (Morgan County), the Storytelling Festival in Morehead, and the "granddaddy of all flea markets," Court Day in Mt. Sterling (Montgomery County). During Court Day, locals harken back to the days of Mt. Sterling's role as the western terminus of the Mount Sterling-Pound Gap road, the longest pre-Civil War state road. Notable residents of the Gateway area include James L. White, screenwriter of the Award-winning *Ray*, and current Kentucky governor Ernie Fletcher, both of Mt. Sterling, as well as Morgan County native William Earl Barber, an officer in the United State Marine Corps awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War, a Purple Heart in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II and a Legion of Merit citation during the Vietnam War.

### The KERI Initiative

The Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative (KERI) was announced by Governor Ernie Fletcher on August 15, 2005. The goal of KERI is to foster statewide awareness, dialogue and insight into the challenges and opportunities provided by the aging of the "Baby Boom" population (persons born between 1946 and 1964) and to stimulate local and statewide initiatives to appropriately address the pending changes that will result from this process. KERI is based on a positive philosophy of old age. Elders are viewed not as dependent but as a resource. Planning for our future involves all age groups and constituencies and the participation of elders in the process is essential. KERI is also concerned with regional differences. What is appropriate for Paducah may not apply to Louisville or reflect the needs and potential of Hazard or Somerset. Finally, KERI is part of a process of continuous planning; it is not a report to be placed on a shelf but rather a statewide movement to prepare for a better future. Participation of the media in this movement is vital.

Initial KERI activities involved assembling background information on Baby Boomers and elders in Kentucky. A series of fact sheets summarizing this information for each Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is available on our website:

(<http://www.mc.uky.edu/gerontology/keri.htm>).

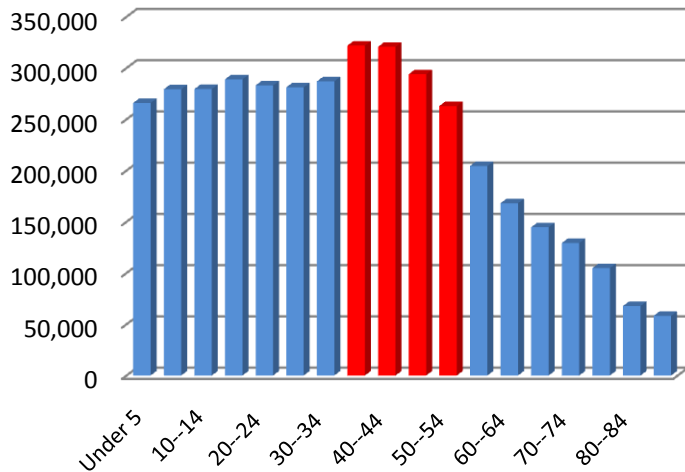
In the summer of 2006, two focus groups (one with community leaders and one with service providers) and a community forum were conducted in each of the 15 AAAs. Findings from the focus groups were incorporated into a statistically representative statewide survey sent to 9,600 Kentucky households in the summer of 2007. Preliminary descriptive findings from this survey for Gateway are presented in this report. These preliminary data are intended to provoke discussion and elicit feedback that can be incorporated into a final report which will include both additional comparative data and analysis and recommendations resulting from community forums and discussions.

### The KERI Survey

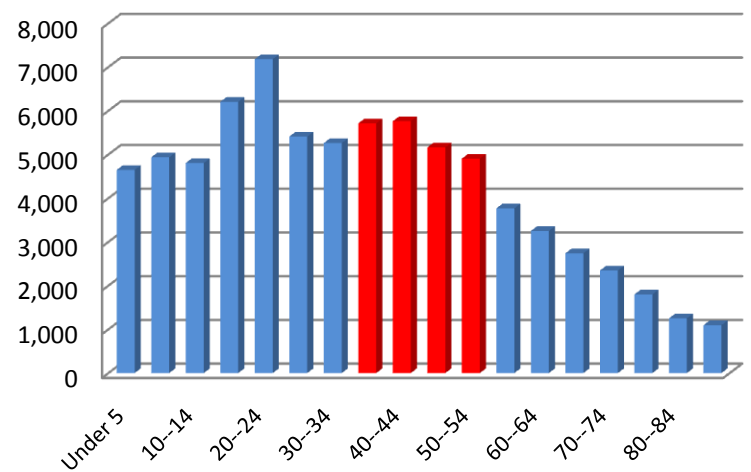
Information provided in this report was derived from a statistically representative random sample of 640 households in the Gateway Area Development District conducted by the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center in June and July of 2007. Responses were received from 193 households representing a response rate of 30.2%. Data are presented by age group and distinguish between persons born prior to 1946 (62 years of age and older) and Baby Boomers (persons born between 1946 and 1964). The Baby Boom cohort is further broken down into a 1<sup>st</sup> Wave (born between 1946-1955) and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave (born between 1956-1964). All quotations in the report are from Gateway residents.

## Gateway Area Development District—Demographics

**Kentucky's Population by Age Group (2000)**



**Gateway's Population by Age Group (2000)**

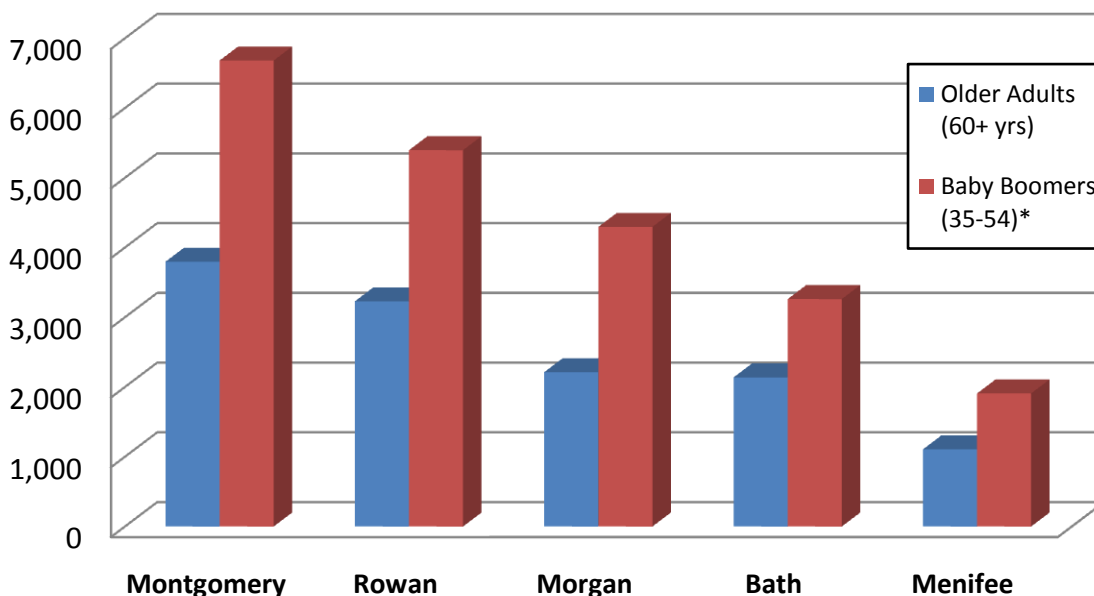


Comparison of population profiles between the state and Gateway Area Development District shows the impact of the Baby Boom generation (shaded in red) on both scales. It is notable that in Gateway the influence of Morehead State University supplements the echo-boom effect of increased births (the children of the Baby Boomers) and has resulted in large populations in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups (persons born between 1976—1985).

### Gateway: The Population

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Gateway Area Development District was home to 12,483 persons 60 and older representing 16.4% of the population. It is anticipated that this population will increase to 24,274 persons 60 and older by 2030 representing 25.9% of the population, a 94.5% increase from 2000. A significant proportion of this increase can be attributed to the aging of the Baby Boom generation which in 2000 comprised 21,543 residents between the ages of 35 and 54 and represented 28.3% of the Gateway population.

**Older Adults and Baby Boomers in the Gateway Area Development District (2000)**



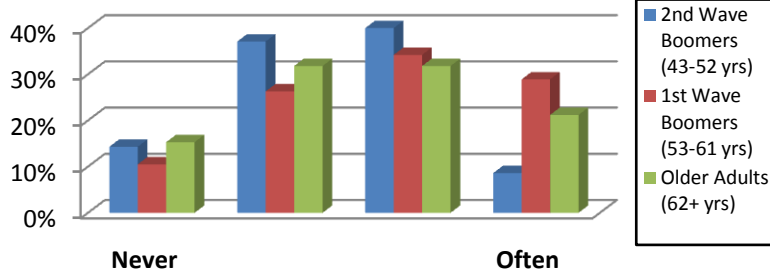
*"There are a lot of people here and, no matter how bad it is, they don't want change... they don't want you to voice your opinions, they don't want to hear it. They are fine, they have been fine, and they will continue to be fine."*

US Bureau of the Census, 2000 (SF 1)

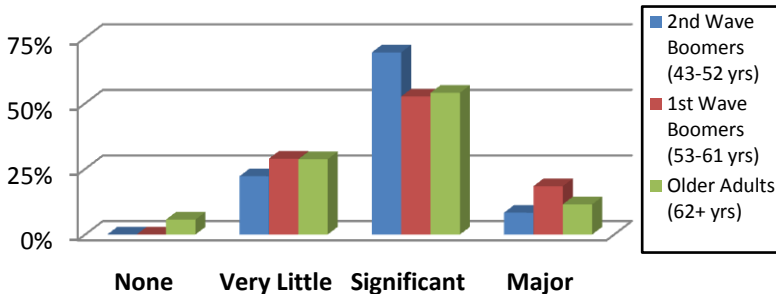
\* Persons age 35 in 2000 are not included in Baby Boom cohort due to US Bureau of the Census (2000) age groupings

## Gateway Area Development District—Survey Findings

### How often do you think about what the affects of the aging of the Baby Boomers might be for you?



### In your opinion, how much impact will the aging of the Baby Boomers have on your community?



### Retirement

More than half of Gateway older adults (53.9%) and 44.7% of Baby Boomers consider "retirement is a well-deserved reward for years of hard work." More than one-quarter of older adults (25.8%) and 34.2% of Baby Boomers "don't want to ever completely retire," and approaching one-fifth of both groups (17.1% of Baby Boomers and 18.0% of older adults) consider that retirement is something you are forced to do. A large proportion of both Baby Boomer (84.2%) and older adult (74.4%) respondents either "somewhat" or "strongly" agree that they "worry/worried a lot about being prepared for retirement." Only one person in the entire sample, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave Baby Boomer, never thinks about retirement.

With regard to preparation for the potential use of services in retirement, the majority of respondents (59.6%) consider themselves to be "somewhat familiar" with elder services in their community. Only 15.6% of older adults and 6.6% of Baby Boomers consider themselves "very familiar" with elder services

### Awareness

A major insight from the focus groups was a lack of awareness of issues related to the aging of the Baby Boom generation. Many participants had never thought about the issue and a number of Baby Boomers admitted to being in a "state of denial." The Gateway survey findings present a different picture. When asked how often they thought about what the effects of the aging of Baby Boomers might be, more than a half of Baby Boomers (56.2%) and older adults (53.0%) admitted to thinking about this issue "often" or in the next most frequent category.

Only five respondents (3.1%), all older adults, felt that the aging of the Baby Boomers would have no effect on their community. Instead, almost three-quarters (74.3%) of the Baby Boomers and two-thirds of older adults (65.5%) felt that the aging of the Baby Boomers would have a **significant** or **major** impact.

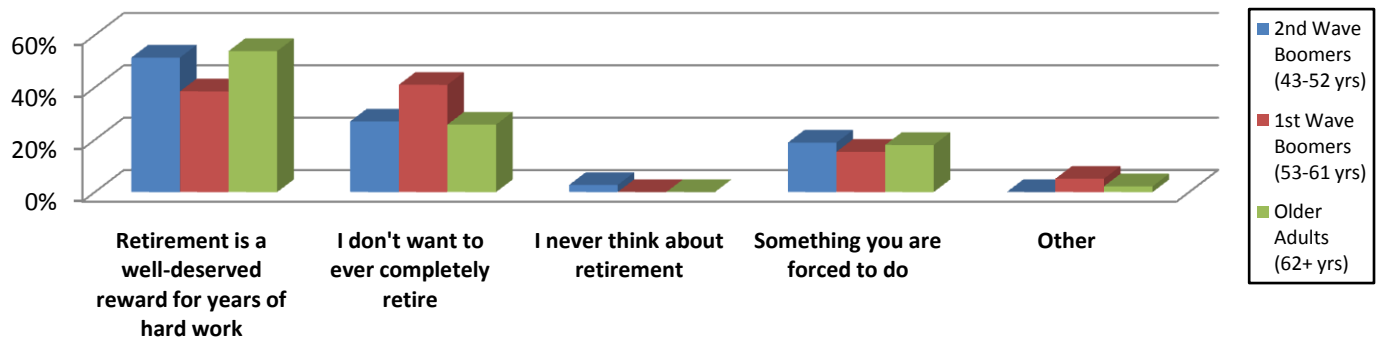
While the data suggest growing awareness of what has been described as a pending "demographic tsunami," four-fifths of the Baby Boomers (80.3%) and two-thirds of the older adults surveyed (65.8%) either "somewhat" or "strongly" disagree with the statement that their community is "actively preparing for retirement and aging of the Baby Boomers." Only five respondents—three Baby Boomers and two older adults—"strongly agreed" with this statement. The implication is that residents of the Gateway Area Development District would be supportive of additional initiatives aimed at addressing the problems and opportunities presented by the aging of the Baby Boomer generation.

Gateway respondents consider that aging of the Baby Boom population will have a negative influence on housing, transportation, health care delivery, tax revenues funding for services, government policies, and aging services.

In contrast, Gateway residents consider that aging of the Baby Boomer generation will have a positive influence in only three areas: employment, environmental design and caregiving for elders.

*"I'm retired but I don't know if I planned well."*

### Attitudes About Retirement





# Gateway Area Development District—Survey Findings

## Finances

One-third of both Baby Boomers (34.3%) and older adults (34.2%) in the Gateway sample consider money provided by an employer like a pension or retirement account (“not one you paid into”) will be a major source of income in their retirement. At the other extreme, 38.6% of Baby Boomers and 37.0% of older adults consider that this will not be a source of income at all. .

Under one third of both Baby Boomers (27.4%) and older adults (31.0%) consider that money placed into a retirement plan at work, such as a 401K plan will be a major source of income in their retirement plan. Half of the older adults (50.7%) and 43.8% of Baby Boomers surveyed do not view such funds as a source of retirement income.

More than one-quarter (27.1%) of older adults but only 16.7% of Baby Boomers in the sample consider that “other personal savings not in a work related retirement plan (e.g. IRA, savings account)” will be a major source of income in their retirement. The largest proportion of respondents (47.2% of Baby Boomers and 45.7% of older adults) considers that such personal savings will not be a source of income in their retirement.

More than one-half of the Baby Boomers (54.1%) and almost three-quarters of older adult respondents (74.4%) consider that Social Security is or will be a major source of income in their retirement. Most of the remainder (40.5% of Baby Boomers and 23.3% of older adults), consider that Social Security will be a minor source of income. Only four Baby Boomers and two older adults consider that Social Security will not be a source of their income in retirement. These findings suggest a continuing high level of reliance on the Social Security system. .

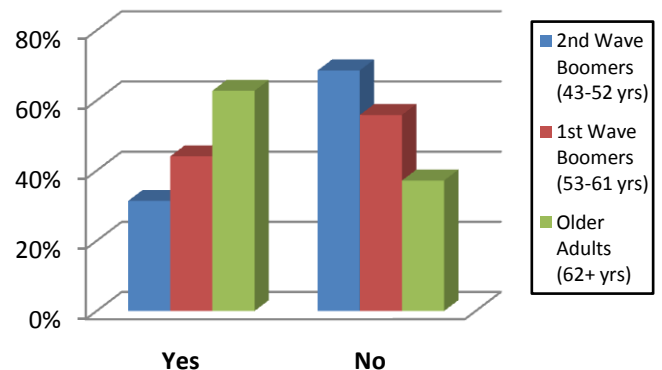
*“I do personal financial counseling in my job and am greatly concerned about the amount of credit card debt Boomers have and the total lack of money to prepare for retirement. Too many are looking to the government to supplement their retirement needs.”*

## Employment

More than one third (39.7%) of the current older adults who responded to the survey continue to work either full or part time but approaching two-thirds (62.8%) plan to do so during their retirement. In contrast, only 37.7% of the Baby Boomers surveyed plan to work during retirement.

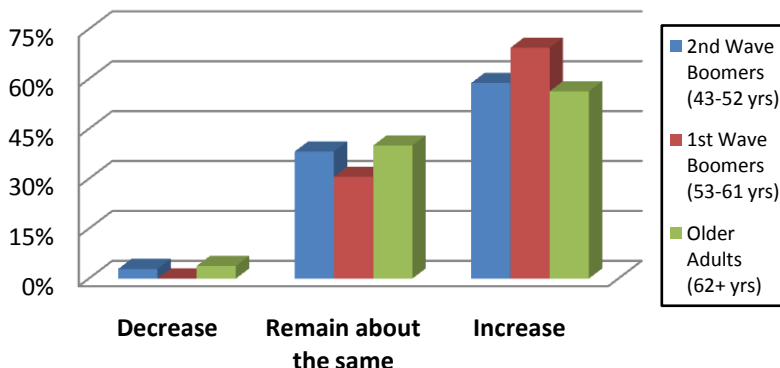
Of those who plan to work during retirement, 56.0% of older adults and 46.3% of the Baby Boomers who responded indicated that the major reason for this decision will be to earn “money to make ends meet.” Among older adults who plan to work during retirement, more than one-half (51.9%) cited “want to keep working” as a major reason. The need “to keep health insurance or other benefits” was reported as a major reason for working post retirement by 40.0% of older adults and 61.0% of Baby Boomers.

Plan to Work During Retirement



*“When I was a little boy I had three parents that lived in my little town. Every winter I would carry the coal in for them, I’d carry the kindling for them. I go to the grocery store for them. I see if they need anything. Nobody does that to anybody anymore.”*

Perceived Need for Public Transportation in Future



## Transportation

More than half of both Baby Boomers (56.1%) and older adults (52.8%) responded that their community has public transportation. Significantly, 64.3% of the Baby Boomers and 56.3% of the older adults surveyed consider that their public transportation needs will increase as they age. Providing and paying for such transportation, especially in Gateway’s rural counties, in the context of rising transportation costs is already a significant challenge. Meeting this challenge is likely to become even more difficult in the future.

# Gateway Area Development District—Survey Findings

## Housing

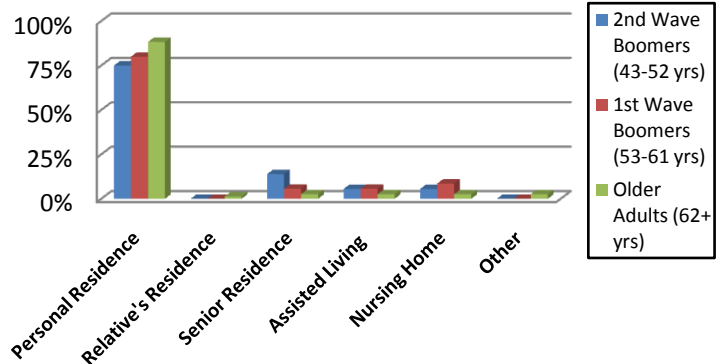
The large majority of Gateway respondents expect to remain in their present residence as they age. When asked where they see themselves living at age 75, the majority of Baby Boomers (77.5%) and a very high percentage of current older adults (88.3%) expect to be living in their personal residence. When asked the same question but for when they are 90 years of age, the percentages drop to 35.7% for Baby Boomers and 36.2% for current older adults.

Living in a relative's residence has historically been considered an option for elders as they grow frail but Gateway residents support current literature suggesting that this is considered a last resort by both elders and their families. Not a single Baby Boomer and only one current older adult (1.3%) in the sample expects to be living with a relative at 75, although when they are 90+ this percentage rises to 10.0% for Baby Boomers and 4.3% for older adults.

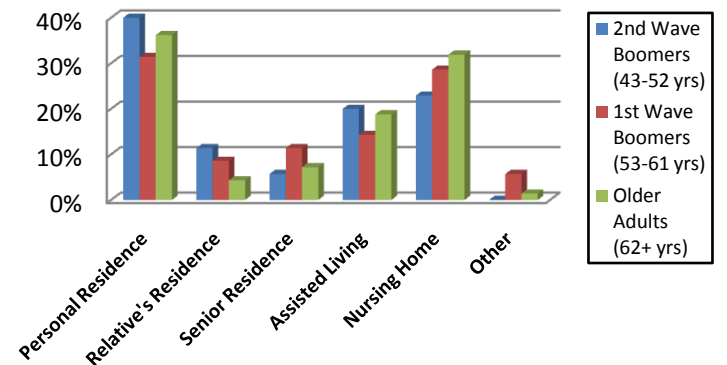
A surprisingly high percentage of Baby Boomers (25.7%) and older adults (31.9%) expect to be living in a nursing home when they are 90. This is not only a much higher percentage than is recorded within the state and nationally but also goes against a current trend toward a lower percentage of elders in nursing facilities. Gateway can expect significantly increased demand for nursing home care if this set of expectations is realized.

Another important finding is the high proportion of Baby Boomers (17.1%) and older adults (18.8%) who expect to be living in an assisted living facility when they are 90. This finding suggests an increased need for affordable variations of this increasingly popular option in Gateway.

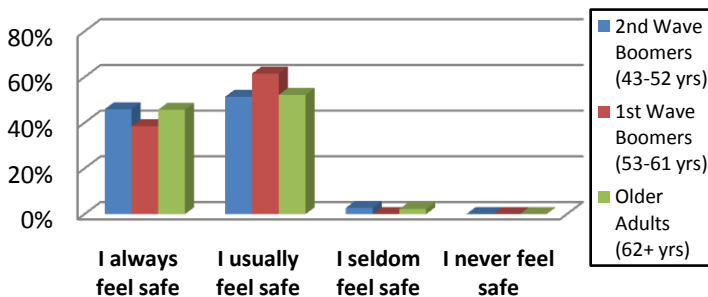
## Where People See Themselves Living at Age 75



## Where People See Themselves Living at Age 90+



## Perceived Feeling of Safety in Community



*"We have took care of ourselves for some 50 years. What makes you think we can't take care of ourselves for another 50 years?"*

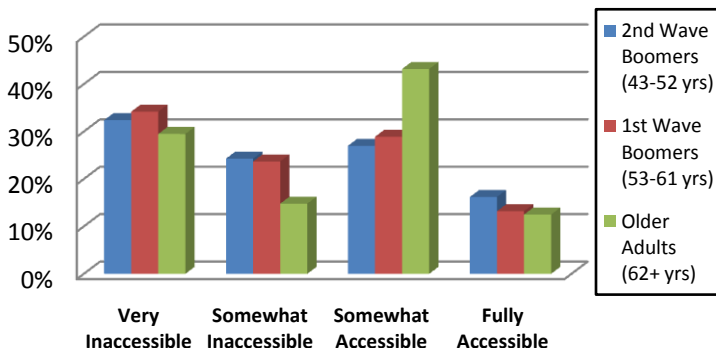
## Health and Safety

Overwhelmingly, Gateway respondents feel safe in their communities. Older adults (97.9%) either "always feel safe" (45.7%) or "usually feel safe" (52.2%) in their communities. Baby Boomers (98.7%) universally agreed; 42.1% "always feel safe" and 56.6% "usually feel safe." This high level of perceived safety is reassuring. No respondent indicated that they "Never feel safe"

A major concern identified in the focus groups was the degree to which the physical environment is accessible to both current older adults and Baby Boomers. More than half of older adults (55.7%) consider the physical environment (sidewalks, steps, or lighting) in their neighborhood to be either "somewhat" or "fully accessible." A lower percentage of Baby Boomers (42.7%) hold this opinion. In contrast, it is important to acknowledge that 29.5% of older adults and 33.3% of Baby Boomers consider their physical environment to be "very inaccessible." This difference likely reflects major local variations in the quality of the micro physical environment.

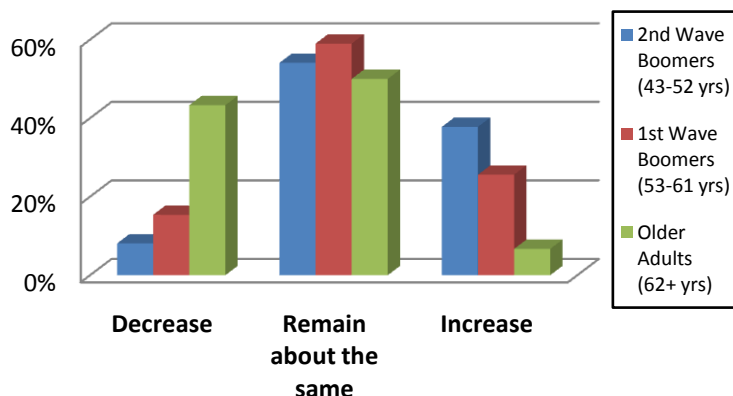
These findings suggest the need for identification and focused attention on the quality of specific local and micro-environments.

## Accessibility of Physical Environment



## Gateway Area Development District—Survey Findings

**Community Involvement as one Ages**



*"I don't see how you can get them to volunteer for anything...Baby Boomers won't do nothing."*

### Community Involvement

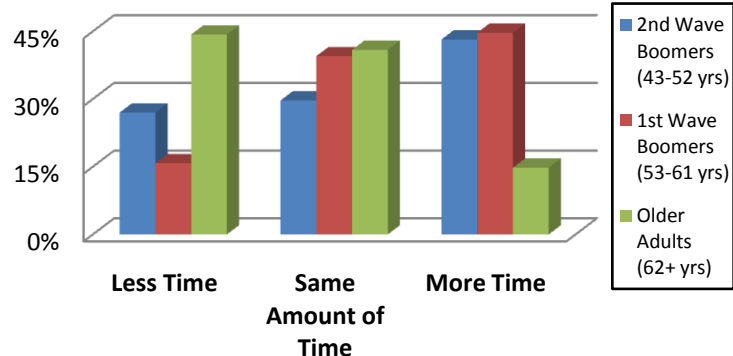
Gateway residents were surveyed as to their anticipated future community involvement and propensity to engage in volunteer activities. A clear pattern emerges. More than one half of the persons surveyed (53.0%) consider that their level of involvement in community activities will "remain about the same." Noteworthy is that 25.6% of 1<sup>st</sup> Wave Baby Boomers but 37.8% of 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave Baby Boomers anticipate "increased involvement" in community activities as they grow older. This contrasts with only 6.7% of older adults who express this opinion.

When asked about the amount of time they plan to spend volunteering ten years from now, older adults (44.3%), perhaps anticipating declining health and reduced ability, were twice as likely as Baby Boomers (21.3%) to respond that they would spend "less time" volunteering than they do currently.

In contrast, reinforcing the findings with regard to anticipated involvement in community activities, 44.0% of the Baby Boomers in the survey sample indicated that they will spend "more time" volunteering ten years from now, compared to only 14.8% of current older adults who anticipate increasing their level of volunteering.

These findings suggest that the Baby Boom generation may be more actively involved in both volunteer and community activities than their predecessors and represent a potential resource for the future of the Gateway Area Development District.

**Time Spent Volunteering 10 Years From Now**



### Life Quality

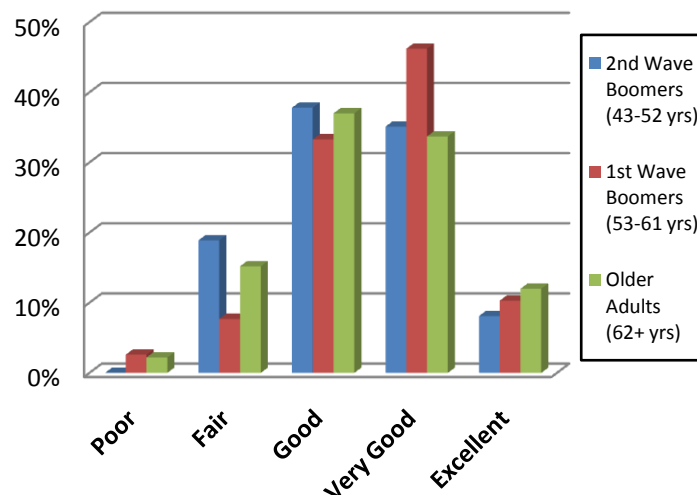
Gateway respondents rated their current quality of life positively. Given choices of "poor", "fair", "good", "very good", and "excellent," only three respondents in the entire sample, one Baby Boomer and two older adults (comprising 1.8% of the sample) rated their current quality of life as "poor." In contrast, 12.0% of older adults and 9.2% of Baby Boomers rated their quality of life as "excellent." In addition, one-third of current older adults (33.7%) and 40.8% of Baby Boomers rated their quality of life as "very good."

When asked to project their quality of life over the next ten years, the majority of the respondents (58.9%) considered that it would "remain about the same." Older adults were more pessimistic than Boomers. Older adults (45.7%) were more likely than Baby Boomers (23.7%) to consider that their quality of life would "get worse" over the next 10 years. Only two older adults (2.2%) and seven Baby Boomers (9.2%) anticipated that their quality of life would "improve" over this period.

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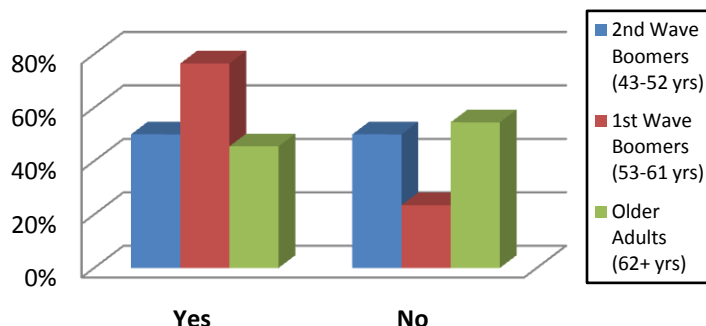
*"There are a lot of Baby Boomers out there who are still active and would like to have interaction with the younger generation."*

**Current Quality of Life**

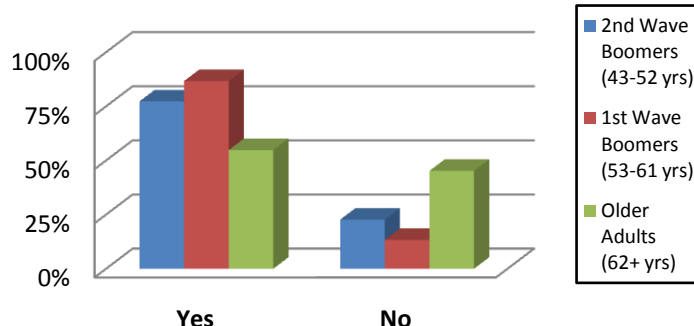


## Gateway Area Development District—Survey Findings

**Senior Centers  
Plan to Use in Future**



**Public Parks  
Plan to Use in Future**



*“My major concern for the Baby Boomers is the long-term care for them. There needs to be a very definite increase in long-term care facilities. At present, there is not enough facilities for the aging now. What is going to happen when the Baby Boomers require this type of care? Plans should be in the making now for providing these kind of services. Not just new facilities but a huge increase in qualified nurses and caregivers. Incentives should be provided to encourage more people to get training to provide better care for the elderly.”*

### Life Quality Cont'd

A series of questions focused on 14 separate indicators of quality of life ranging from the availability of venues for the arts and lifelong learning opportunities to restaurants, shopping centers and grocery stores.

About one-third of those surveyed (36.6% of Baby Boomers and 31.8% of older adults) have taken advantage of lifelong learning opportunities (e.g. computer, art, accounting classes, etc.) in the past twelve months. A higher percentage of Baby Boomers (55.3%) anticipate doing so in the future. Fewer older adults (45.5%) express this intention. It appears that as the Baby Boomers age there will be increased demand on educational resources.

There is general consensus that many volunteer opportunities (service in hospitals, food pantries etc.) are currently available in the Gateway area. Both Baby Boomers (92.0%) and the current generation of older adults (86.8%) share this view. While in the past twelve months 37.8% of the Baby Boomers have participated in such opportunities to enhance their quality of life, 61.0% plan to do so in the future. Fewer older adults (20.9%) have participated in volunteer opportunities during the past 12 months but 44.1% identify this as a future aspiration.

There is widespread acknowledgement that support groups (e.g. caregiver, A.A.) are available in the Gateway area, with 86.5% of Baby Boomers and 86.4% of older adults reporting such knowledge. Few of the Baby Boomer respondents (9.8%) have used support groups in the past 12 months but three times as many (30.0% of those surveyed) anticipate using such resources in the future. About the same percentage of older adults (30.3%) sees such a need in their future.

Three-quarters of the Baby Boomers surveyed (76.5%) have used public parks in their community during the past 12 months. A much lower percentage of current older adults (44.9%) report such usage. A higher percentage of both groups (81.1% of Baby Boomers and 54.8% of current older adults) plan to use this resource in the future, reinforcing the need to focus on ensuring that public parks are elder accessible.

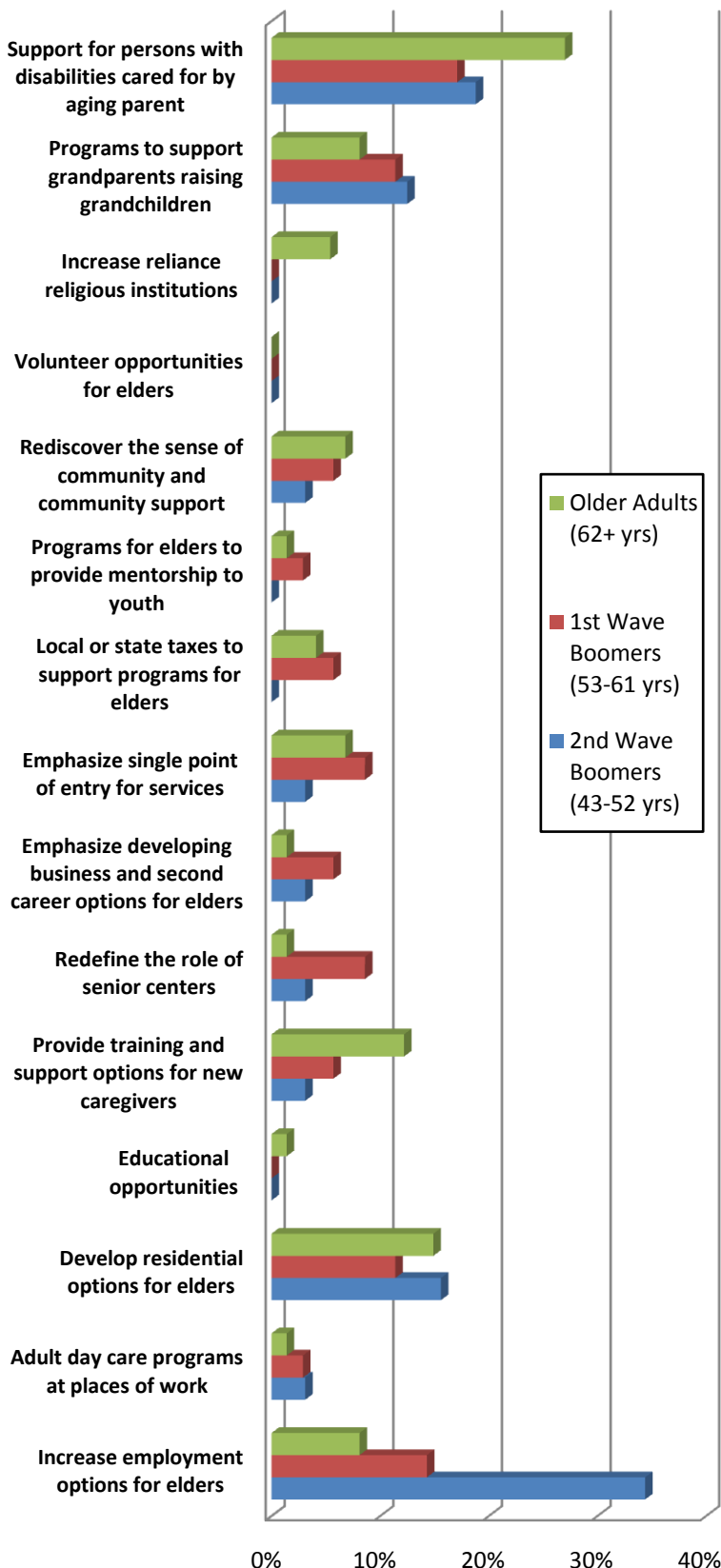
More than one quarter of older adults (29.2%) and a surprisingly high percentage of Baby Boomers (22.5%) in the Gateway sample have used a Senior Center in the past 12 months. When future plans are considered, 61.0% of the Baby Boomers and 45.5% of the older adults surveyed, plan to use Senior Centers. More than three-quarters of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wave Baby Boomers (76.5%) and half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave Baby Boomers (50.0%) anticipate using Senior Centers in the future. This finding suggests that, if Senior Centers are to be considered the community-based hub of the elder services delivery system in the future, there is a need to redefine their focus in a manner attuned to ways in which the needs of Baby Boomers differ from the current generation of older adults.

When asked which one of the 14 life quality resources they considered most important, 52.1% of the Baby Boomers and 48.9% of older adult respondents rated “churches, spiritual groups and other religious organizations” as the most important, far outstripping large grocery stores (12.3% among Baby Boomers and 13.6% among older adults). The extreme importance placed on the church and faith organizations as determinants of quality of life reinforces findings from the focus groups which also revealed the importance and potential of this constituency as a resource for addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by an aging population. Other resources considered most important for quality of life by Baby Boomers were shopping centers (6.8%) and restaurants (6.8%). Other resources considered most important to quality of life among older adults were shopping centers (8.0%) and libraries (8.0%).



## Gateway Area Development District—Survey Findings

### Most Important Future Directions in Preparation for the Aging of the Baby Boom Population (Percentage Ranking as Most Important)



### Future Directions

One outcome from the 30 focus groups conducted around the state in 2006 was a series of suggestions for future directions that the Commonwealth and individual communities might take in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by aging of the Baby Boomers. In the survey, Gateway respondents were asked to prioritize many of these suggestions.

Perhaps reflecting concern about their own financial future, 52.6% of Baby Boomers and 46.6% of older adults responded that **increasing employment options** for elders was “very important.” An additional 43.4% of Baby Boomers and 44.3% of older adults considered this to be “somewhat important.”

Both Baby Boomers and current older adults agreed on the importance of developing **adult day care programs at places of work**. More than a third of the Baby Boomer respondents (34.7%) considered this a “very important” and 54.7% a “somewhat important” priority. Older adults concurred, with 28.9% responding that the development of such programs was “very important” and 51.8% “somewhat important.” Interestingly, 10.7% of the Baby Boomers and 19.3% of the current older adults surveyed considered that this was “not important” as an option.

Baby Boomers were unanimous in responding that placing emphasis on **developing residential options for elders** was either “somewhat important” (42.1%) or “very important” (57.9%), a view shared by the large majority (98.8%) of older adults in the sample. Second wave Baby Boomers were particularly enthusiastic about this option with 67.6% viewing it as “very important.” Only one respondent, an older adult (0.6% of the total sample), considered this strategy “not important.”

The majority of respondents (52.5%) considered that **increasing educational opportunities for elders** was “somewhat important.” Baby Boomers (36.5%) were slightly more likely than older adults (31.4%) to rate this option as “very important.”

When asked about the importance of providing **training and support options for new caregivers**, a large majority of both Baby Boomers (65.3%) and older adults (63.2%) rated this strategy as “very important.” Second wave Baby Boomers (70.3%), perhaps acknowledging current and future potential stresses in caring for their own aging relatives, were more likely than 1<sup>st</sup> Wave Baby Boomers (60.5%) to respond that this was “very important.” Only two Baby Boomers (2.7%) and two older adults (2.3%) considered that placing a priority on such training was “not important.”

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## Gateway Area Development District—Survey Findings

### Future Directions Cont'd

Perhaps thinking of their own future needs **redefining the role of senior centers** was considered “very important” by 61.3% by the large majority of Baby Boomers and an additional 37.3% deemed this “somewhat important.” Older adults expressed the same opinion with 44.0% rating this need as “very important” and 51.2% responding that this was “somewhat important.” These findings support an emerging consensus that there is a need to redefine the role of senior centers for the Baby Boom generation by providing resources such as gyms and a computer use areas. Interestingly, the current generation of older adults seemed to share this view, with only four respondents in this group (4.8%) suggesting that this is “not important” as a priority.

Baby Boomers (44.70%) are more likely than older adults (30.6%) to respond that placing emphasis on developing **business and second career options for elders** is “very important.” An additional 48.7% of Baby Boomer and 60.0% of older adults indicated that this is “somewhat important.”

When asked about the importance of emphasizing a single **point of entry (one place to call) for services or information**, 62.7% of Baby Boomers and 63.1% of older adults responded that they considered this “very important.” Very few respondents, three Baby Boomers (4.0%) and three older adults (3.6%) considered this option, currently being pursued as a high priority in the Commonwealth, to be “not important.”

There was some support among both Baby Boomers and older adults for **raising taxes to support programs for elders**. Indeed, 81.7% of the respondents agreed that introducing local or state taxes to support programs for elders is “somewhat important” (45.6%) or “very important” (36.1%). This may reflect a growing realization within the Gateway area of the need to find additional sources of funding to support needed programs for elders as they become frail.

The majority of Baby Boomers (55.3%) and older adults (54.3%) responded that it is “somewhat important” to develop **programs for elders to provide mentorship or guidance to youth**. Second wave Baby Boomers (43.2%) were more likely to rate this option as “very important” than were 1<sup>st</sup> Wave Baby Boomers (38.5%). Only 11 respondents (7.0% of the total sample) considered that this strategy was “not important.”

One unexpected finding from the focus groups was the view expressed by a number of participants that it was important for Kentucky to **rediscover a sense of community and community support that was a traditional component of Kentucky life in the past**. Both Baby Boomers and older adults strongly endorsed this need with 96.0% of Baby Boomers and 91.5% of older adults responding that this was “very important” (38.7% of Baby Boomers and 47.6% of older adults) or “somewhat important” (57.3% of Baby Boomers and 43.9% of current older adults).

The majority of both Baby Boomers (56.6%) and older adults (56.5%) consider that developing more **volunteer opportunities for elders** is “somewhat important.” Approaching one-third of the total sample (31.7%) rated this as a “very important” priority with a slightly higher percentage of 1<sup>st</sup> Wave Baby Boomers (35.9%) considering this option “very important.”

Churches, spiritual groups and other religious organizations were considered to be by far the most important among the various contributors to quality of life considered in the survey. But there seems to be somewhat less enthusiasm for placing **‘increased reliance on churches and religious institutions for the support of frail elders.’** Only a little over a third of Baby Boomers (33.3%) and 41.7% of older adults considered this a “very important” option. Just over ten percent of sample (10.1%) consider this option “not important.”

There are more than 30,000 older Kentuckians raising their grandchildren. Recognizing a major current concern in the Commonwealth with developing support for these individuals, 69.8% of older adults and 63.2% of Baby Boomers responded that it is “very important” to develop **programs to support grandparents raising grandchildren**.

There is widespread concern among both older adults and Baby Boomers with providing programs for **long term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent**, a current area of focus among policy makers and service professionals in Kentucky. More than two-thirds of older adults (70.5%) and 63.0% of Baby Boomers consider this to be “very important.” Only five respondents (2.6%), three Baby Boomers and two older adults, consider this is “not important.”

When asked to identify which of the potential future directions they considered “the most important” in preparing for the Baby Boom population, Baby Boomers identified efforts to “increase employment options for elders” (23.9%), providing “programs for long term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent” (17.9%) and “developing residential options for elders” (13.4%) as the highest priorities. For older adults, providing “programs for long term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent” (27.0%) was by far the top priority. Other options rated as “most important” by older adults included “developing residential options for elders” (14.9%), “providing training and support options for new caregivers” (12.2%), increasing “employment options for elders” (8.1%) and developing “programs to provide support for grandparents raising grandchildren (8.1%).

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